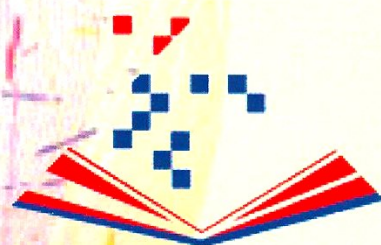


# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



ABILENE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



## Highlights from 2015 - Main Library

Our regular line-up for storytimes includes programs for all ages. We plan age-appropriate activities for each group and strive to entertain and educate our audiences. Parents are encouraged to fully participate with their children during the sessions. We conducted around 382 programs during the 2015 fiscal year with over 8800 kids and 5200 adults attending. In addition to our in-house programs, we make regular visits to childcare facilities around Abilene with our Out And About program. In 2015 the Main Library visited 551 classes and read to 9778 children and 1,321 adults.

The Collecting Commas group is still going strong. This is a writing group for 10-17 year olds. This year, the members shared their talents during Lib-Con with 3 original skits based on books, movies, comics, and geek culture. They also participated in National Writing Month where 2/3 of the members set and met a goal of writing 10,000 words in November. (One member actually topped 50,000 words.)

Summer Programs were all super-hero themed in 2015 which proved to be very popular with both kids and teens. The summer reading club enrolled 3982 children and 1171 teens. We passed out over 13,000 prizes to the kids who visited the library and over 3,761 prizes to visiting teens. The Young Audiences performances were again a big hit over the summer. In 2015, the library played host to Nancy Burks Worchester, Key City Brass, Storybook Theatre out of New Braunfels and ACU Opera.

We also set programs designed to provide new experiences for patrons. We had some cunning canines from the Abilene Kennel Club, Joy Harsh from the Abilene Zoo (and her critters), a super-hero puppet show presented by our children's staff, and a special performance by the Collecting Commas group featuring their original play, "Princess To The Rescue."



One of the highlights of the year was the workshop we conducted in cooperation with the National Center for Children's Literature (NCCIL) and the Children's Art and Literacy Festival (CALF). The library took part in the CALF events in June. The featured author this year was David Shannon. The library served as one of the reading and craft locations. Attendees listened to "Alice The Fairy" and "Bugs In My Hair," then created bug hair clips to wear and fairy wands to wield. The staff of all 3 branches combined their talents to present "Early Literacy In Action" to an audience of 70 library workers from across the state.

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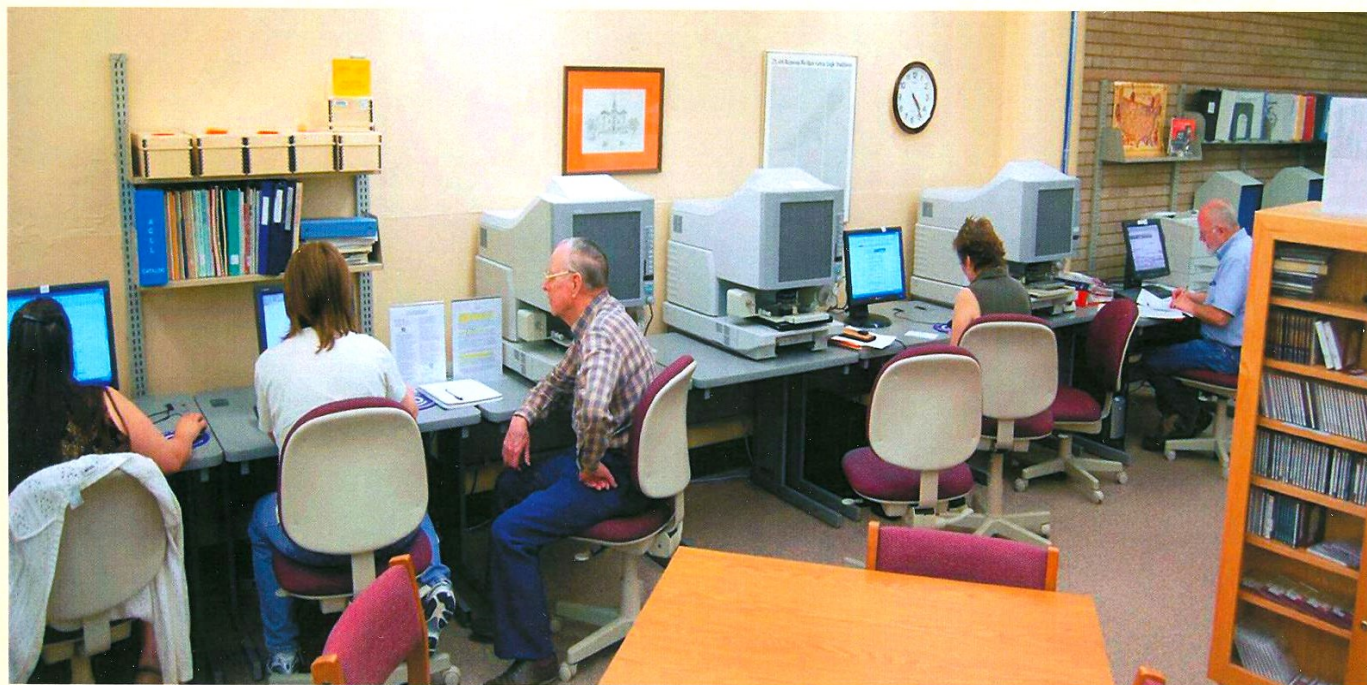


## 2015 Highlights Continued

The children's staff has been busy with new programs over the year. A new Lego® Club brought in a wide range of ages and has proven very popular with boys (a demographic that is difficult to reach.) Plans for future meetings included some theme-related sessions as well as free building time. The monthly Science Club has also been revived. Kids of all ages meet to experience some fascinating science demonstrations as well as some hands-on experiments. They also started a regular rotation of family movie days, complete with popcorn!

With a circulation of over 760,000 items and visits by more than 340,000 people, Abilene Public Library is pleased to present to you this 2015 annual report.

Respectfully,  
Lori Grumet, City Librarian





## Penny Parker Klostermann, Author Children's Library Super User

When the library contacted me about sharing my library story as a “super-user,” it made my day! I’m a children’s author and some of the best advice I was given early on in my writing career was, “READ, READ, READ books in your genre.” So learning that I’d been designated a “super-user” meant that I was heeding that invaluable advice.

Speaking of my career as a children’s author, having an incredible library system, as we do in Abilene, has been instrumental in my journey. For example, when I decided I wanted to write a retelling of *THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY*, it was important that I research other retellings to make sure I was writing something fresh—something that hadn’t already been done. To my delight, our Abilene library had almost every retelling that I found via my research. The retellings they didn’t have were easily acquired through interlibrary loan. Using the Abilene Public Library, I easily completed my research and went on to write, *THERE WAS AN OLD DRAGON*



*WHO SWALLOWED A KNIGHT*, which was published by Random House Children’s Books in August of 2015.

Not only do I use our library to research new ideas for books, I use it to check out newly released books so that I’m aware of the current picture book market. Being aware of the market is another essential part of being an author. One really handy tool for staying abreast of new releases is the Wowbrary Newsletter. It was simple to sign-up so that I could receive weekly updates in my Inbox. Using Wowbrary, I can place holds on the latest picture books and have them waiting when I arrive at the library.

Since I stay on top of highly recommended picture books, I also take full advantage of Purchase Suggestions. Many titles I come across have just hit the market. So if there is a title that our library doesn’t own yet, I suggest it for purchase. The library has purchased almost every title I’ve requested.

Because I am a “super-user,” I interact with the library staff often. They are amazing. They greet me with a smile. They’re helpful and polite. It’s a joy to visit any of the three branches.

I really could go on and on about our library, but I will wrap it up by saying that the Abilene Public Library is extremely important to me. Not only does it meet my reading needs, it also meets my career needs as an author.

A super big thanks to all the staff from this super happy “super-user!”



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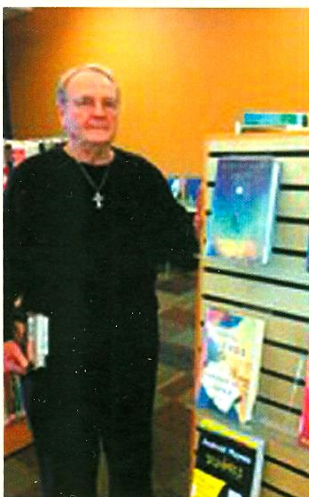
## Caitlyn Joye, Children's Library



For as long as I can remember, reading has been one of my favorite things, which has, of course, made the library one of my favorite places; the library is brimming with magical stories of fantasy, adventure, and, yes, even romance, full of people like me in the world: people very passionate about reading, writing, movies, and more.

## Robert (Bob) Lapham

Mockingbird Branch

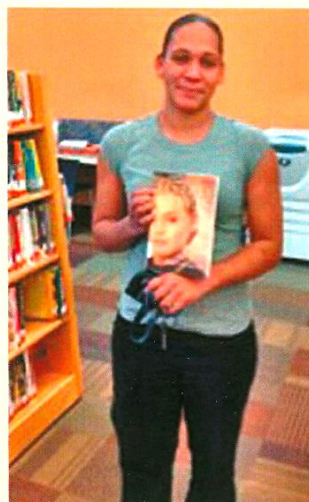


I enjoy the atmosphere of the Mockingbird Branch. The Library staff is knowledgeable and very courteous. I live only 10 blocks away and can walk to the library. I enjoy relaxing in the environment here! The book selection is fantastic! I checkout for both my wife and myself, usually 3-4 at a time with others on a waiting list.

**I consider the Abilene Public Library as one of the city's most valuable assets.**

## Sarah Barrow

Mockingbird Branch



I love the library on Mockingbird. The people that work here are super friendly. Everything is so easy to find and organized well when I'm in a hurry. Why Does It Have Value? They always treat me like family, help when I need it.

**I wouldn't change the people or place one bit!**

## More Super Users ...

## Shirley Kesler

South Branch



Although I live in Coleman, I have been a visitor to the South Branch for well over a decade, visiting two to three times a week. The library is a friendly place to come and have the opportunity to visit with the good and helpful friends (staff) to get books. Plus, they're always willing to help by recommending books and placing books on hold for me based on my reading preferences. Libraries are a great place to go to for entertainment and it's the first place you think of when it comes to learning, being able to find resources, and access knowledge to find answers. Books are wonderful, the people at the South Branch are great, and I just enjoy the services they offer.

**Libraries are a great place to go to for entertainment ...**



## South Branch

1401 South Danville Rd.

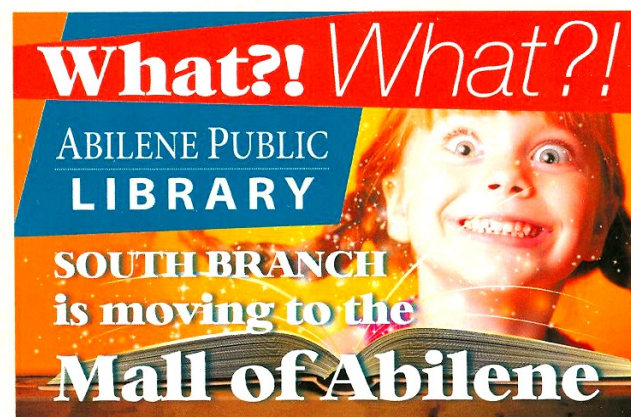
FY2015 was a busy and exciting year for the South Branch Library, primarily due to our future move to the Mall of Abilene. Situated further in southwest Abilene, and offering a space of over 20,000 sq ft, we look forward to offering even more services for the community to enjoy. Staff has been hard at work developing new programming and expanding services for all ages to increase program offerings by 350% for the new space.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended to all who have helped make this new facility a possibility for FY2016 including the Friends of the Abilene Public Library, the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board, City Librarian Lori Grumet, City Manager Robert Hanna, Assistant City Manager James Childers, Interim Community Services Director Lesli Andrews, the Abilene City Council, and all parties who have expressed their support through words, actions, and donations. Building on our successes since our opening in January 1998, we are excited and eager to see what our future holds.

The South Branch has continued to remain innovative in our current programming and services for the community while adding new services to enjoy. In March 2015, children's staff added an exciting outreach program for local youth called Stories in the Park. This program was held twice a month from March to August. South Branch also hosted a Teen Summer Volunteer Program, which was met with great support and actively utilized the talents of four young ladies who spent a combined 136 hours of their summer break assisting in youth activities during the Summer Reading Club.

## South Branch Statistics At a Glance

- **97,792 Patron Visits**
- **190 Volunteer Hours**
- **425 Kids Programs Attended by 13,524 Guests**
- **26 Tween/Teen Programs Attended by 454 Guests**
- **800+ Book-A-Librarian Sessions Conducted**



Literacy became another focus thanks to a grant received from the Texas Book Festival to support a new literacy initiative for local families. Added to our collection in October 2015, the South Branch offers 40+ literacy kit backpacks for grades K-5. Each kit comes with age-appropriate books, companion CDs, a binder of literacy activities, and additional materials such as foam letters and numbers, dry erase crayons, puzzles, flash cards, and more. This program has been well-received by kids and parents alike.



## Technical Services

### Main Library

Technical Services is the department that no one sees but everyone benefits from. This year we started by helping to reimagine the 2nd floor of the Main branch. Staff built shelving and rehoused the historic periodicals and the Hispanic language collection. Interlibrary loan is a popular service that the Abilene Public Library offers that provided our patrons with 9,500 borrowed items from libraries around the nation. Another popular service that we maintain is the digital products. Last year alone our patrons enjoyed 111,885 digital books through our Overdrive platform. Hoopla is another digital service that we make available that offers our patrons 378,000 items like audiobooks, ebooks, graphic novels, tv shows and movies. This year Abilene Public Library introduced Flipster which is a digital magazine platform with 38 magazines to engage every age and interest level. As always, we order, process, catalog and make available all of the most popular bestselling books and media as well as process hundreds of patron requests from our citizens. During this year, as a staff we incorporated Dyess materials for our patrons to use in our new South Branch. We also worked on Hispanic programming and preserving Hispanic heritage in Abilene with the Hispanic Business Council.

## State of Technical Services

ILL **9,524 patrons requests fulfilled.**

Overdrive **111,885 digital books**

Hoopla items **8,802**

Flipster **402**

Total **121,089**

Audiobooks **22,517**

eBooks **60,784**

Comics **4,590**

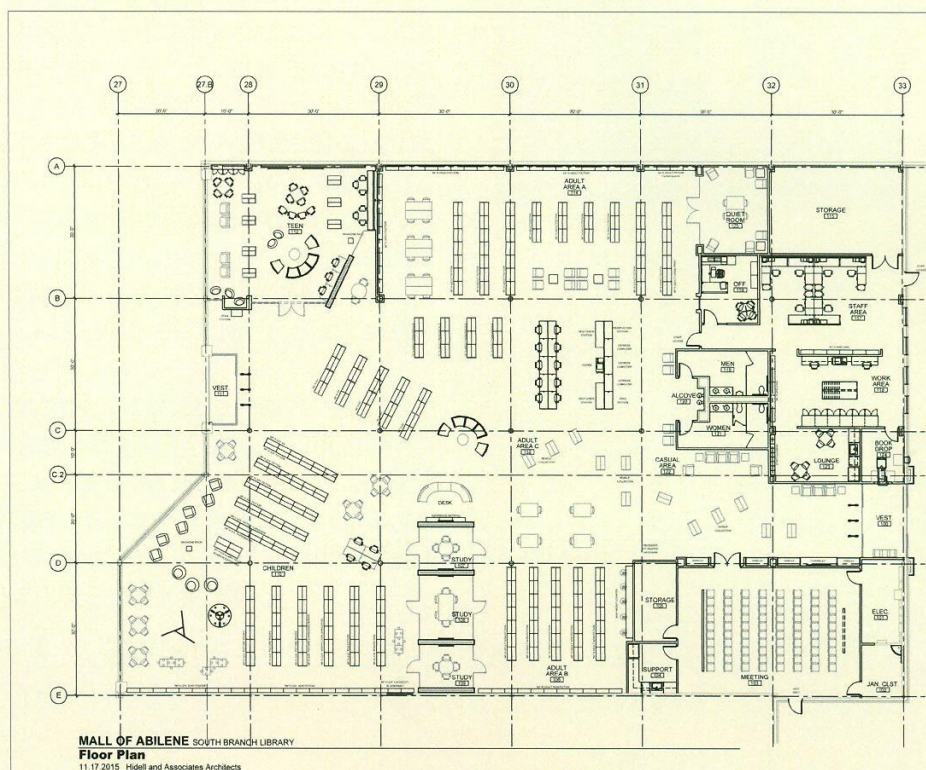
Movies **8,384**

TV Episodes **12,426**

Music Albums **269,395**

Total **378,096**

## South Branch New Floor Plan at Mall of Abilene





## Mockingbird Branch

1326 North Mockingbird Ln.



The Mockingbird Branch delivered another great year of exceptional programming during 2015. Our summer reading theme focused on heroes, both real and imaginary, and without a doubt our two most popular events were “Meet a Hero” featuring the Abilene Motorcycle Patrol and the Abilene Fire Department. In June APD Officers rolled into our parking lot in style, to show off their patrol bikes and go over some basic parking lot safety tips for all our young listeners.

Then in July the Abilene Fire Dept. came out to demonstrate how to stay safe in the event of a household fire. Everyone had an opportunity to go inside the truck and feel what it’s like to put on a helmet and travel to an emergency.

Popular adult programs in 2015 included “Home Organization Tips for Everyone,” “ABCs of Word,” “Upcycled Herb Gardens,” and “Celebrate the Season: Holiday Concert” to name just a few. In 2015 the branch also created a quarterly adult craft program, for seniors and stay at home moms.

Beginning in May the branch began to show movies twice a month on both a Monday night and a Saturday afternoon. Movies covered all genres and appealed to both adults as well as families. While this may seem non-traditional for a library, this service falls in line with the branch’s overall goal of providing free and accessible family-friendly entertainment. “We have a little something for everyone from books, to children’s puzzles and games, to family friendly movies,” says Branch Manager Anne Ellis. “We’re not here to collect books on the shelves but to draw the community in our doors and encourage them to explore literacy, in all its many forms.”

Toddler Time, offered Tuesday mornings at 10:45am, has grown leaps and bounds! Due in great part to the loveable Ms. Darla as well as to the influx of new families returning to the surrounding neighborhood this program has become one of our most successful offerings in 2015.

“We’re not here to collect books on the shelves but to draw the community in our doors and encourage them to explore literacy, in all its many forms.”

Anne Ellis, Branch Manager



## Information Services

- 27,670 Reference questions were answered
- Computer users - Main - 46,331 • South - 20,132  
Mockingbird - 29,564
- Book-a-Librarian sessions at all branches included such things as helping people learn to use their mobile devices, obtaining e-mail accounts, creating resumes, crafting job applications and basic computer skills
- 131 Adult programs at Main Library - programs included tree & lawn care, nutrition, financial planning, tax help, the affordable care act, grandparents parenting and crafts for adults.
- Cover-to-Cover Book Club - 11 total meetings and 155 total people attended those meetings. We averaged 14 people per meeting.
- 278 Books on Wheels participants
- Senior outreach through nursing homes & Senior Center - 63 programs, including reading and computer skills programs. 457 attendees to these programs.
- Volunteer hours - 1,729

(Information Services continued next page)





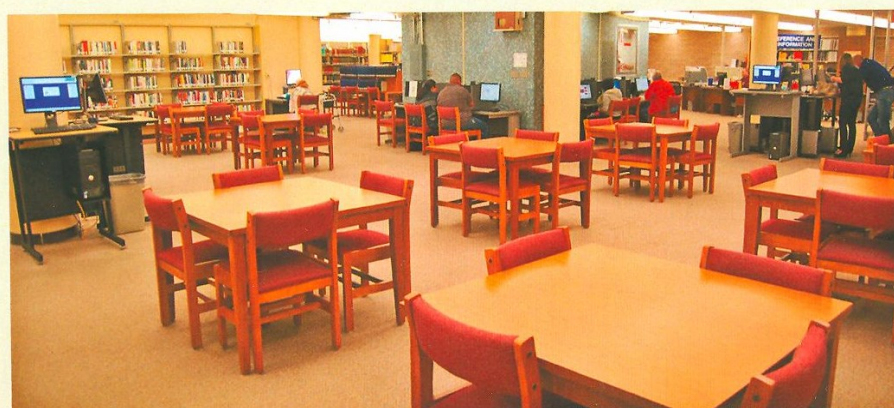
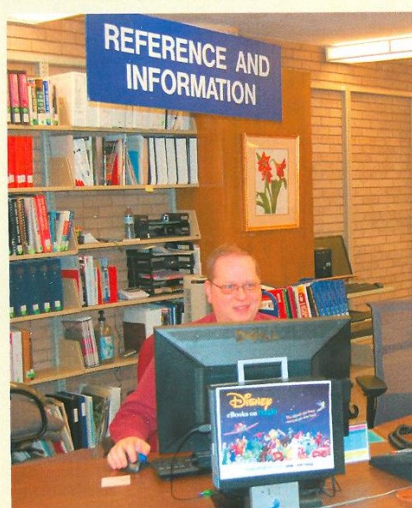
## Information Services continued

This past year was a wonderful one for Information Services Staff. We instituted some new services and programs for the public, including scanning for the public and taking computer/mobile device classes to the Rose Park Senior Center in a partnership with the Senior Citizens Service division. "Adult Storytimes at local retirement centers continue to be popular, with a new location added this year. 63 programs had 457 attendees throughout the year.

Our Cover-to-Cover Adult Book Club continues to grow. Members choose their own titles, usually alternating months between a fiction and non-fiction title. 155 attended last year, with an average attendance of 14 people each month.

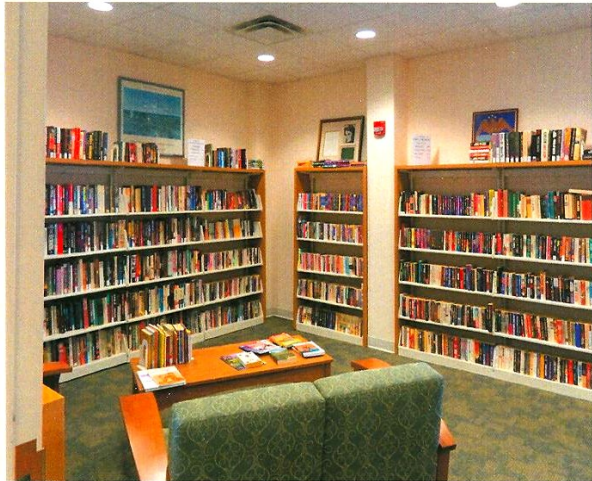
IS staff collaborated with Children's/YA staff at all locations for this year's Lib-Con, April 27th through May 2nd. Billed as "a celebration of all things geeky" this mini comic convention included superheroes, anime, manga and other pop culture, with programs for all ages. Popularity continued to increase for this program, with movie showings, craft programs and a cosplay costume contest with 37 entrants in three age categories. In all, 1,527 people participated over the week of activities, including the full day on May 2nd. We are already looking forward to Lib-Con 2016.

This past year, a new collection of e-books were added for patrons. The Gale Virtual Reference Library is available 24-7 / 365 to patrons. It contains thousands of titles from more than 100 publishers on topics including business, biography, health, education, social sciences and more.





# FRIENDS OF THE ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY



A membership in the Friends of the Library is a great way to support your library! The Friends provide financial support and programming throughout the year to enhance the offerings of the library. Annually they hold a massive used book sale at the Abilene Civic Center to raise funds that purchase items not included in the library budget. Each autumn they host the West Texas Book Festival.

## Library Support

Travel support for staff training  
Provided prizes for reading competition  
Staff appreciation Christmas meal  
Supported Hoopla  
Raised over \$1.3 Million for the renovation of the Mall of Abilene space for the new South Branch Library

Author series and other programs help Abilene maintain and promote quality of life and library services in Abilene. You may join by picking up a membership envelope at the library. New members are always welcome. The Friends also gratefully receive financial donations and encourage everyone to consider making a bequest to the Friends in their estate planning. Membership is tax deductible. Join the Friends for fun, participation and the love of books and reading.

## Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board consists of eleven members who assist with the development policy and direction for the future of the library. It is composed of volunteers from the community and meets quarterly, the first Monday of February, May, August and November.



Library Board votes unanimously to proceed with the new South Branch project at the Mall of Abilene.





## Our Mission

The mission of the Abilene Public Library is to provide materials, services and programs to help community residents obtain information which meets their personal, educational, professional and recreational needs.

## Library Locations & Hours

Main Branch 202 Cedar St.  
South Branch 1401 South Danville Rd.  
Mockingbird 1326 North Mockingbird St.

Hours for all locations:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 9:00 a.m./9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday - 9:00 a.m./6:00 p.m.

## Abilene Public Library

202 Cedar Street  
Abilene, TX 79601  
325.676.6328 Phone  
325.676.6024 Fax

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